

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 05945 151639Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARAE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00

EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 OMB-01 /095 W

-----070881 151836Z /40

P 151509Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5723

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, SOCI, PE

SUBJECT: BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER DENOUNCING VIOLENCE
AND REPRESSION

REF: LIMA 5892

SUMMARY: A PASTORAL LETTER SIGNED BY ARCHBISHOP LUIS VALLEJOS SANTOMI OF CUZCO AND FOUR BISHOPS OF MISSIONARY DISTRICTS IN SOUTHERN PERU WAS READ DURING MASS ON SUNDAY, JULY 10 IN THE FIVE DIOCESES. IT WAS PUBLISHED JULY 13 IN CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY EL TIEMPO. THE LETTER WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN RECENT YEARS IN ITS EMPHATIC AND EXPLICIT DENUNCIATION OF GOP POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES. TEXT FOLLOWS SEP AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BISHOPS CITE AS THE MOTIVATION FOR THEIR PROTEST THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN PERU WHICH HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF IN A SERIES OF POPULAR PROTESTS IN CUZCO, PUNO, JULIACA AND OTHER TOWNS. THESE JUST PROTESTS, ACCORDING TO THE INTRODUCTION TO THE LETTER, HAVE BEEN VIOLENTLY REPRESSED AND HAVE RESULTED IN DEATHS, WOUNDED, DETENTIONS, AND DISAPPEARANCES. THE BISHOPS STATE THAT RECENT ECONOMIC AUSTERITY MEASURES HAVE MADE A LONG-STANDING "SITUATION OF VIOLENCE" UNBEARABLE, AND CITE COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES, SALARY FREEZES, LABOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 05945 151639Z

INSTABILITY, LOW FARM PRICES, A SHORTAGE OF ARABLE LAND, ANTI-LABOR LAWS AND THE PROLONGED SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES AS PREJUDICIAL TO THE MASSES AND FAVORING A MINORITY. THE DEEP-SEATED CAUSES OF THE PRESENT SITUATION ARE DESCRIBED AS A LACK OF LIBERTY AND "AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODEL AND A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE MAJORITY".

2. THE FIVE PRELATES SPECIFICALLY DENOUNCE:

- "VIOLENT REPRESSION" AND A WILL TO TERRORIZE THE PEOPLE;
- THE ANTI-POPULAR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM;
- AND
- THE FACT THAT A PRIVILEGED MINORITY HAS SHIFTED THE WEIGHT OF THE CONOMIC CRISIS TO THE SHOULDERS OF THE POOR.

3. THEIR LETTER CONTINUES WITH A LONG LIST OF REQUESTS OR PETITIONS, INCLUDING:

- AN END TO REPRESSION AND SCARE TACTICS.
- EXACT INFORMATION ON DEAD AND DISAPPEARED.
- FULL LIBERTY OF INFORMATION AND EXPRESSION.
- RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES; AND
- AN EQUAL SHARING OF THE AUSTERITY THAT TIMES DEMAND, WITH AN END TO ECONOMIC PRIVILEGES FOR A SMALL MINORITY.

COMMENT: THE FIVE BISHOPS WHO SIGNED THE PASTORAL LETTER BELONG TO AN INFORMAL, INTRA-DIOCESAN WORKING GROUP KNOWN AS "PASTORAL ANDINA" WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ITS PROGRESSIVE ATTITUDES. ARCHBISHOP VALLEJOS OF CUZCO, WHO WAS BISHOP OF THE WORKING-CLASS DIOCESE OF CALLAO PRIOR TO ASSUMING HIS PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES, IS AN OUT-SPOKEN PROPONENT OF SOCIAL REFORM AND EXPANDED POPULAR PARTICIPATION. OF THE FOUR REMAINING CLERICS, ONLY ONE (BISHOP OF PUNO) IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 05945 151639Z

PERUVIAN. ALBERTO KOENIGSKNECHT (JULI) IS A U.S. CITIZEN AND A MARYKNOLL PRIEST. BISHOP DALLE (AYAVIRI) IS FRENCH AND BISHOP QUINN (SICUANI) IS CANADIAN. A MARYKNOLL PRIEST IN LIMA TOLD EMBOFF JULY 13 THAT SEVERAL AMERICAN MARYKNOLL PRIESTS WERE BRIEFLY DETAINED AND INTERROGATED BY PERUVIAN AUTHORITIES AFTER HAVING READ THE PASTORAL LETTER TO THEIR PARISHES. THE LETTER HAS BEEN CIRCULATING IN MIMEOGRAPHED FORM SINCE LAST WEEK AND WAS REPORTEDLY RECEIVED WITH REJOICING AND APPLAUSE WHEN IT WAS MADE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, THE CHURCH IS OBVIOUSLY NOT UNITED IN ITS PROTEST. SEVERAL CONSERVATIVE PRELATES IN THE SOUTHERN ANDEAN REGION DID NOT SIGN THE LETTER. A CONTACT IN THE ARCH-DIOCESE OF LIMA TOLD EMBOFF JULY 14 THAT LIMA HIERARCHY WAS MEETING IN "PERMANENT SESSION" TO STUDY POSSIBILITY OF PUBLISHING THE PASTORAL ANDINA LETTER IN LIMA. THE BISHOPS' MOVING PROTEST HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLY EXCITEMENT IN LIMA, GIVING GROWING INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. CONTACT IN ARCHDIOCESE OF LIMA SAID THAT THE HIERARCHY IS IN A DITHER OVER LETTER AND ITS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. WHILE IT CONTAINS NO EXPLICIT CON-DEMNATION OF THE PRESIDENT, CABINET OR ARMED FORCES, THE VEILED REFERENCES TO A PRIVILEGED MINORITY WILL BE WIDELY INTERPRETED TO MEAN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL CIVILIAN OLIGARCHY. FROM A STRICTLY

ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, SOME OF THE BISHOPS' COMPLAINTS
AND PETITIONS ARE NAIVE, GIVEN PERU'S SERIOUS FISCAL PRO-
BLEMS. HOWEVER, THE GOP, IN FIRING ECONOMY AND FINANCE MINISTER
PIAZZA, AND JUNKING THE AUSTERITY PLAN DESIGNED TO MAKE
PERU ELIGIBLE FOR IMF STAND-BY ASSISTANCE ITSELF FOUND THE
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL COST OF SUCH A PLAN TOO HIGH. THE
BISHOPS, SPEAKING FOR A SEGMENT OF THE CHURCH, SECOND THIS
ARGUMENT, BUT GO FURTHER TO IMPLY THAT THE SECOND PHASE
OF THE REVOLUTION HAS LOST ITS LEGITIMACY AND ALIENATED
THOSE WHOM THE REVOLUTION WAS SUPPOSED TO
BENEFIT.
SHLAUDEMAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LIMA05945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770252-0979
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770754/aaaabucx.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9e4ec06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LIMA 5892
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1850875
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BISHOPS\ PASTORAL LETTER DENOUNCING VIOLENCE AND REPRESSION
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, SOCI, PE, (SANTOMI, LUIS VALLEJOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e4ec06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009